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P002/013

P.7

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8225

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March 8, 1994

The Honorable Warren Christopher
 U.S. Secretary of State
 2201 C Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

CLASSIFICATION OF STATE		IS/FPC/CDR <i>Dr</i>	Date: 4/5/94
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	MR Cases Only:	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	EO Citations:	
<input type="checkbox"/> DENY	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PART		
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During your February 23 appearance before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, you agreed with my suggestion that addressing the foreign claims of American citizens should be a top priority of the State Department. I stated my appreciation at the time, and I now reiterate it, that I am grateful for your personal commitment to this significant issue.

Inasmuch as you will be visiting mainland China later this week, I respectfully request that you raise with Chinese officials the following two cases of uncompensated expropriation of property belonging to American citizens. (I enclose copies of self-explanatory correspondence from the claimants, Mrs. Helen Hsieh Chien and Mr. Wallen Yep, both of whom are readily available to provide any further information you may need.)

While I recognize that these two cases in China are based on circumstances different from expropriation cases I've identified in Latin America, the fact remains that in all cases, property and assets of American citizens have been seized without compensation.

I feel obliged to call to your attention my concern about the response Mrs. Helen Hsieh Chien received from the State Department when she sought assistance. As you will note from her letter, she was advised that the State Department would be unable to help and that she must deal with the communist Chinese government directly.

That, Mr. Secretary, was a callous response, and is yet another example of why I strongly believe the State Department needs that "American Desk" that you and I have discussed publicly. The people in your department must be made to understand that the interests of American citizens must be given first priority. Instead of excuses to justify its failure to uphold this priority, the State Department should be finding ways to assist these citizens whose rights and property are being abused.

MAR 10 '94 06:25PM

P.8

13-14 10:11PM FROM SFC GOP STAFF

TO 66472762

F003/013

The Honorable Warren Christopher
March 8, 1994
Page two

With your recommendation to the President as to the renewal of China's Most Favored Nation (MFN) trading status just three months away, your visit to Beijing is of enormous importance to the Chinese leadership. I am confident that the Chinese, if they are as smart as I believe them to be, will pay close attention to all of the issues you raise.

In light of the tremendous economic benefit China will receive from the United States should MFN trading status be renewed, I believe it is entirely appropriate to insist that the Chinese government positively address these claims and cease and desist in their mistreatment of American citizens.

Sincerely,



JESSE HELMS

Enclosure